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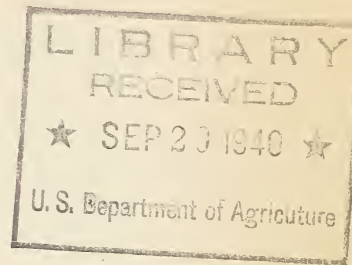
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

NATIONAL FARM PROGRAM DATA

1932-1940

DELAWARE HIGHLIGHTS



The story of agriculture today in Delaware and in the rest of the Nation is the story of an improved agriculture. Here are the highlights of progress under the National Farm Program in Delaware during the 7 years since it was started:

INCOME: Farmers Make More Money—1939 cash income up 56 percent from 1932; buying power 142 percent^{from} 1932; farm real estate values in 1940 up 11 percent from 1933; 9,176 acres of 1940 wheat protected by crop insurance; \$2,489,615 loaned by Farm Credit Administration agencies from 1933 to 1939; debts of low income farmers reduced \$109,098 under Farm Security Administration debt adjustment service; 1,530,000 pounds of surplus foodstuffs distributed to needy in last fiscal year.

CONSERVATION: Farmers Are Conserving Their Soil—10,500 Delaware farmers participated in the 1939 AAA program, representing about 92 percent of the State's cropland; 8,636 acres covered by 5-year agreements with the Soil Conservation Service in 1939; 72,200 trees distributed for planting during 1939.

SECURITY: Farmers Are More Secure In Their Homes—132 farm families received rural rehabilitation loans totalling more than \$92,500 from 1935 to 1940; \$9,878 made in grants in the same period; 10 tenant families started toward ownership by loans for farm purchases; 847 miles of rural electric

lines to serve 2,571 farm families made possible by allotments of Rural Electrification Administration—1,639 more farms getting central station electric service in 1939 than in 1935.

DEMOCRACY: Farmers Help Run The Programs—3 county AAA offices with 140 county and community committeemen administer AAA program locally; 3 county committees and 2 tenant purchase committees working on program of Farm Security Administration; 3 local National Farm Loan associations and 1 production credit association in operation; 2 county land use planning committees formed.

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PART ONE: FARM INCOME

Delaware farmers in 1939 had 56 percent more cash income than they had in 1932. Farm cash income in Delaware was \$18,710,000 in 1939. Government payments accounted for \$998,000 of this amount directly. The 1939 cash income was 22 percent less than in 1929, when cash income was \$24,000,000. Cash income in 1932 was \$12,000,000.

Substantial gains in cash income from 1932 to 1939 by the producers of Delaware's most important farm products are shown in the following table:

TABLE I. Cash income Received by Delaware Farmers for
Principal Commodities Listed, in 1932 and in 1939,
With Amount and Percent of Change.

Commodity	Cash Income		Amount of	Percent of
			Increase,	Increase,
			1939 over	1939 over
	1932	1939 ^{2/}	1932	1932
	(Thousands of dollars)		(Percent)	
Chickens and eggs	4,360	6,581	2,221	51
Milk	2,312	2,807	495	21
Truck Crops	1,251	1,697	446	36
Apples	720	1,551	831	115
Corn and hogs	397	787	391	98
Wheat	360	714	354	98
Cattle and Calves	335	636	301	90
Strawberries	392	545	153	39
Peaches	126	324	198	157

^{1/} Because farm income statistics are being revised, all figures in this table are not strictly comparable. For the most part figures are on a calendar year basis, but there are a few commodities which are on a crop year basis for 1932. All income figures in this table exclude Government payments.

^{2/} Preliminary.

For the country as a whole cash farm income in 1939, including Government payments, was 82 percent larger than in 1932. Cash farm income was

\$4,682,000,000 in 1932 and \$8,540,000,000 in 1939, including \$807,000,000 in Government payments.

Prices of Farm Commodities

Better prices for Delaware's leading farm commodities have put more cash in the hands of the farmers of the State. The improvement in prices received by Delaware farmers for their principal commodities is shown in the following table:

TABLE II. Average Prices Received by Delaware Farmers
for Commodities Listed, in 1932 and in 1939.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>1932</u> (Dollars)	<u>1939</u> ^{1/} (Dollars)
Milk (wholesale)	cwt.	1.60	2.00
Hogs	cwt.	5.00	7.40
Beef cattle	cwt.	4.65	7.40
Veal calves	cwt.	6.60	9.90
Sheep	cwt.	2.95	3.45
Lambs	cwt.	6.00	9.10
Wheat	bu.	.57	.84
Corn	bu.	.45	.63 ^{2/}
Oats	bu.	.32	.46
Potatoes	bu.	.53	.95
Apples	bu.	.69	.70
Peaches	bu.	.60	.95
Wool	lb.	.097	.25
Butter	lb.	.24	.27
Chickens	lb.	.135	.168
Eggs	doz.	.182	.199

^{1/} Preliminary

^{2/} Includes loan corn at average loan value.

Farm Purchasing Power

Both farm income and prices paid by farmers declined sharply from 1929 to 1932, but farm income declined more. From 1932 to 1939 there was an increase in both farm income and prices paid by farmers, but farm income increased more. Thus farm buying power fell off from 1929 to 1932 and climbed upward from 1932 to 1939.

For the United States as a whole farm buying power in 1939 was 172 percent as much as in 1932 and 99 percent of the 1929 level. In other words, farmers were able to buy about as much in 1939 as in 1929 and 72 percent more than in 1932.

In Delaware farm purchasing power in 1939 was 142 percent as much as in 1932 and 98 percent of the 1929 level. Thus Delaware farmers in 1939 were in a position to buy 42 percent more of the things they needed than in 1932 and only 2 percent less than in 1929.

The farmer's buying power can also be shown by the unit exchange value of farm products, namely, the ratio of prices received by farmers to prices paid by farmers for commodities used in living and production. While this measurement is not available on a State basis, Delaware farmers naturally benefited from Nation-wide improvement in the exchange value of farm products.

For all farm commodities, the unit exchange value was 26 percent higher in 1939 than in 1932. The following table, comparing 1939 and 1932, shows the unit exchange value of all farm products, as well as specified groups of farm commodities that are important in Delaware:

TABLE III. Unit Exchange Value ^{1/} of all Farm Products and of Specified Groups of Commodities Important in Delaware.

	Percent of Base Period		Percent
	1910-1914		Change
	1932	1939	1939 over 1932
All farm products	61	77	+26
Meat animals	59	91	+54
Dairy products	78	86	+10
Chickens and eggs	77	78	+ 1

^{1/} Ratio of prices received to prices paid by farmers for commodities used in living and production, 1910-14 base.

Farm Real Estate Values

Gains in farm income, prices, and buying power have been reflected in rising real estate values on Delaware farms. In the year ending March 1933 the value of farm real estate was only 80 percent of the period before the World War. From this low point the estimated value per acre in Delaware rose to 89 percent of pre-war for the year ending March 1940. Thus Delaware farmers found their real estate worth about 11 percent more early in 1940 than in the first part of 1933.

For the United States as a whole, in the year ending March 1940 farm real estate values rose to 85 percent of the level before the World War, compared with only 73 percent of pre-war in the year ending March 1933. The 16 percent gain from 1933 to 1940 followed more than a decade of unbroken decline in the value of farm real estate.

Farm Foreclosures, Sales, and Bankruptcies

Along with a rise in farm real estate values since 1932, there were more voluntary sales of farms in Delaware and fewer forced sales and bankruptcies.

Voluntary sales and trades of Delaware farms were 17.9 per thousand for the year ending March 1939, compared with 14.7 per thousand for the year ending March 1933.

On the other hand, the number of forced farm sales in the State declined from 25.0 for the year ending March 1933 to only 9.3 per thousand for the year ending March 1939.

Farm bankruptcies in Delaware dropped from a total of 42 in the year ending June 30, 1933, to 9 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939.

In the United States as a whole, voluntary sales and trades of farms rose from 16.8 per thousand in the year 1933 to 28.2 per thousand in the year ending March 1939, and forced sale of farms declined from 54.1 per thousand to 16.8 per thousand in the same period; farm bankruptcies in the entire country decreased 76 percent from 1933 to 1939.

All Phases of Farm Program Contribute to Income Improvement

Farmers of Delaware received \$465,000 in conservation payments under the 1937 program, \$579,754 under the 1938 program, and an estimated \$667,479 under the 1939 program, including county association expenses.

In addition, under the Price Adjustment Act of 1938 farmers of the State received an estimated \$122,801 in parity payments on their 1939 production.

For the United States as a whole, payments under the 1939 conservation program totaled \$506,179,199, including county association expenses.

Crop Insurance

Under the 1940 program in Delaware, 456 contracts insured an estimated 9,176 acres for a production of 117,379 bushels of wheat. Premiums paid in amounted to 4,588 bushels, as of May 31, 1940. Under the 1939 program, 7.9 policies were issued to insure a production of 22,208 bushels of wheat on 1,755 acres. A total of 851 bushels were paid in as premiums, and 668 bushels returned to 14 growers as indemnities, as of March 30, 1940.

Federal Credit Aids Agriculture

Farmers in Delaware obtained \$2,489,615 in loans from institutions under the supervision of the Farm Credit Administration from May 1, 1933, through December 31, 1939. In addition, credit was advanced to a considerable

number of farmer cooperatives and privately organized agricultural financing institutions.

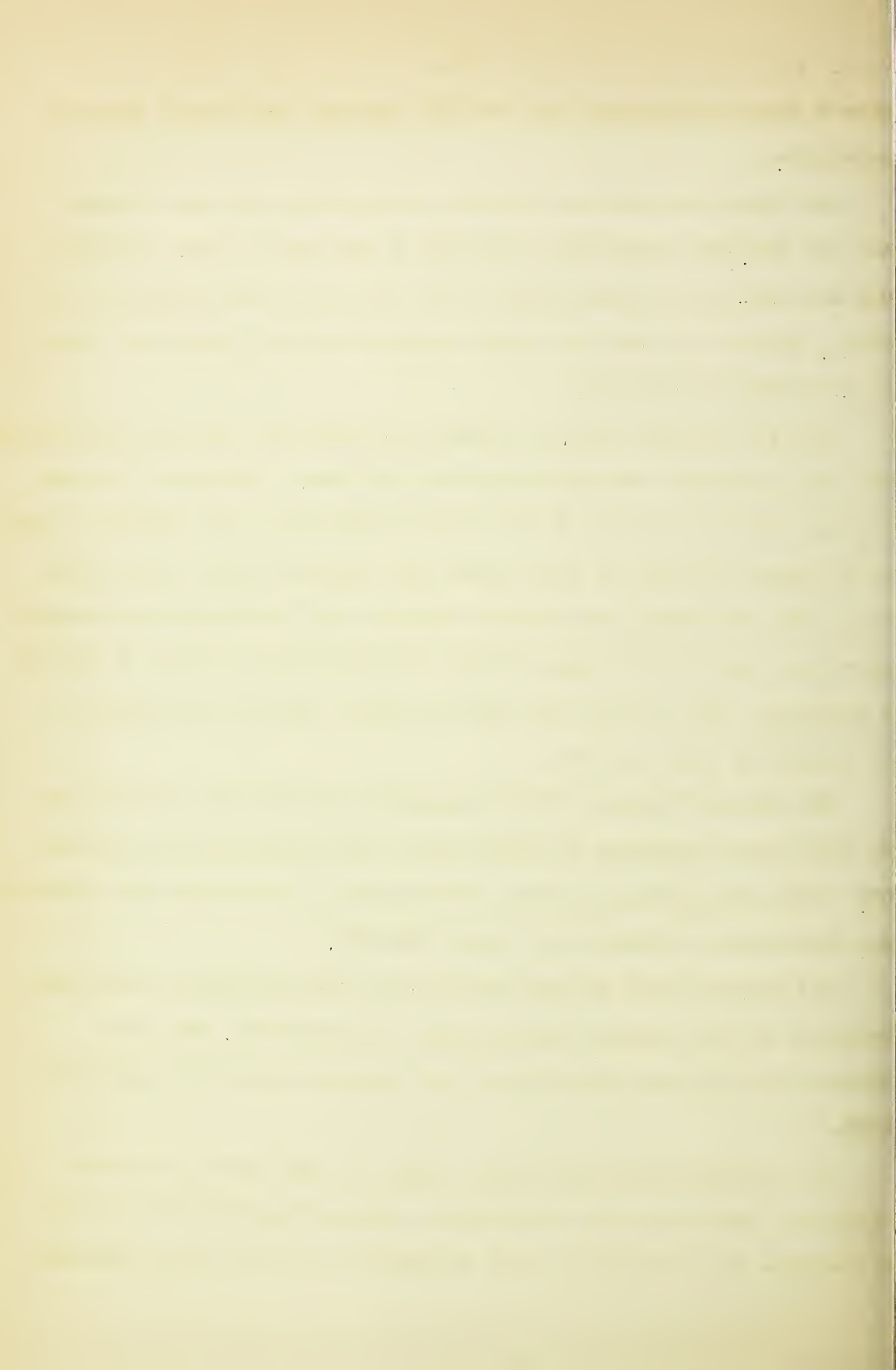
The Federal Land Bank of Baltimore, making long-term first mortgage loans, had \$830,251 outstanding in Delaware on December 31, 1939, including loans made prior to the organization of the Farm Credit Administration. In addition, \$412,200 of first and second mortgage Land Bank Commissioner loans were outstanding on that date.

From 1933 to 1935 almost 85 percent of Federal land bank and Commissioner loans made in Delaware were used to pay off old debts. Although the largest percentage of loans continues to be made for refinancing, since October 1, 1935, some 52 Delaware farmers and farm tenants have purchased farms, using credit obtained from the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore and the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation, which provides funds for Land Bank Commissioner loans, to finance the purchases. This includes the resale on credit terms of farms which had been acquired by these agencies.

The Delaware Production Credit Association operating in the State has made 1,852 loans aggregating \$1,021,500 since their organization in December 1933. These associations make loans for all types of short-term farm operations. Loans outstanding on December 31, totaled \$189,692.

The Baltimore Bank for Cooperatives makes loans to farmers' marketing, purchasing, and farm business associations. On December 31, 1939, the Baltimore Bank had loans outstanding to one Delaware cooperative aggregating \$6,884.

In the United States as a whole, during the same period, individual farmers and their cooperative organizations obtained \$5,951,000,000 in loans and discounts from institutions under supervision of the Farm Credit Adminis-



tration. Land bank loans outstanding on December 31, 1939, totaled \$1,905,000,000. Land Bank Commissioner loans, \$691,000,000; production credit associations numbering 528, in 6 years made 1,312,000 ^{loans} aggregating \$1,442,000,000; in the same period the 12 district banks for cooperatives and the Central Bank made 6,868 loans aggregating \$491,047,000.

Debt Adjustment

In Delaware, 153 farmers, through the Farm Debt Adjustment Service of the Farm Security Administration, reduced their debts through agreement with their creditors by \$109,098 in the period September 1, 1935, to December 31, 1939, a debt reduction of 18.6 percent. As a result Delaware farmers have been able to pay \$3,815 in back taxes.

In the United States as a whole, 111,131 farmers reduced their debts by adjustments totaling \$84,942,798 or 23.7 percent, and as a result have been able to pay more than \$4,860,000 in back taxes.

Commodity Loans Protect Income

Corn and wheat loans serve to protect and stabilize farm income, help to stabilize market supplies and prices, and protect both consumers and producers against the calamity of crop failure.

In the United States as a whole, 70,000 wheat producers obtained loans on their 1938 crop, totaling about \$45,000,000 on 85,700,000 bushels of wheat, and about 235,000 producers stored 167,000,000 bushels of their 1939 crop under loans totaling about \$115,000,000.

Exports Aided

Two major export programs for wheat and cotton have assisted United States producers to retain their fair share of the world market. In the fiscal year

which ended June 30, 1939, the first year of the wheat export program, 118 million bushels of wheat were sold for export. Of this amount, export of 94 million bushels was assisted directly by the export program. From July 1 through December 31, 1939, sales for export of approximately $24\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels of wheat and wheat in the form of flour were assisted by the continuing export programs.

How the wheat program has operated to improve the domestic wheat prices in the last year and a half is shown in the following: In August 1938 the average U. S. farm price was 34 cents under the Liverpool price. In August 1939, the U. S. price was about 3 cents above Liverpool. Since Liverpool is normally about 30 cents over the domestic farm price, this meant the U. S. farmer was receiving about 33 cents a bushels more for his wheat than if his price had been based on the world price.

Domestic Consumption Increased

Expanded domestic distribution and consumption of surplus farm products was brought about through two types of programs; direct purchase of commodities for distribution to needy families through State welfare agencies, and the Food Order Stamp Plan which puts increased food buying power directly into the hands of low-income families.

In Delaware in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939, 1,530,000 pounds of surplus foodstuffs were distributed by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, compared with a total of 1,970,079,155 pounds distributed throughout the United States in the same period.

PART TWO: CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Income improvement and conservation of natural resources have gone hand in hand in Delaware since 1933.

Under the first Agricultural Conservation Program in 1936 about 4,000 Delaware farmers participated. Of the total cropland, about 51 percent, or 275,200 acres, was covered by applications for payments. A total of 21,434 acres was diverted from soil-depleting crops. Soil-building practices were put into effect on about 76,200 acres as follows: New seedings of legumes and legume mixtures, perennial grasses for pasture, and green manure crops — 70,905 acres; fertilizer and lime applications — 5,282 acres; and forest tree plantings — 13 acres.

Delaware farmers have continued to participate actively in the AAA programs. There were 5,931 payees in the 1937 program and 9,678 in the 1938 program. Applications for payments covered 397,277 acres, or 67 percent of the cropland in the State, under the 1937 program and 480,600 acres, or 83 percent of the cropland, under the 1938 program.

Soil-building practices were put into effect in the State as follows under the AAA programs for 1937 and 1938:

	<u>Unit</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>
New seedings	acres	115,622	166,405
Green manure and cover crops	acres	35,958	95,085
Forest tree practices	acres	54	31
Fertilizer and lime applications	tons	20,450	29,148
Artificial reseeding of pastures	lbs. of seed	- -	100
Terracing	lin. ft.	- -	6,000

In the United States as a whole, under the 1938 Agricultural Conservation Program, new seedings covered 30,075,000 acres and green-manure and cover crops 25,244,000 acres. Fertilizer and lime applications totaled 5,547,000 tons. Forest tree practices covered 197,000 acres and pasture practices about 2,205,000 acres. Protected summer fallow, strip cropping, contour farming, and listing were carried out on 15,990,000 acres. Terracing was carried out to the extent of 392,036,000 linear feet.

Soil Conservation Service Activities

In addition to the Agricultural Conservation Program, many Delaware farmers have signed 5-year agreements with the Soil Conservation Service for complete programs of erosion control and good land management. As of December 31, 1939, 101 farms including 8,636 acres were operating under such agreements. This figure includes land in Soil Conservation projects, CCC camp soil conservation work areas, and farms planned cooperatively by the Soil Conservation Service and State Extension Service.

Approximately 4,850 acres unsuited to continued cropping have been purchased and developed for uses for which this land is better suited, principally forestry and grazing under the Land Utilization Program.

In the United States as a whole, a total of 48,267,000 acres of farm land in 82,000 farms were covered by 5-year contracts with the Soil Conservation Service up to June 30, 1939. Soil Conservation Service demonstration areas now include 68,847,000 acres. Soil Conservation Districts, numbering 217, covered a combined area of 120,000,000 acres of the Nation's 1,900,000,000 acres of land by January 1, 1940, with another 100 districts in process of organization. Within the 217 organized districts were 1,000,000 farms.

Approximately 8,600,000 acres of land unsuited to continued cropping have been purchased and developed for uses for which this land is better suited, principally forestry and grazing.

Forest Conservation and Reforestation

Approximately three-fifths of the 12,000 farms in Delaware contain woodland, and farm woodlands in the aggregate amount to 234,000 acres, or about 26 percent of the State's farm area.

Forest conservation and reforestation on both public and private lands in Delaware have been advancing rapidly from 1932 to 1940. Under the Clarke-McNary law, which provides for Federal-State cooperation in the production and distribution of trees, 72,200 trees were distributed for planting on farm lands during 1939. Extensive plantings of forest trees also are made on farm lands under agreement with the Soil Conservation Service.

In the United States as a whole, the national forest system now includes about 175 million acres in 40 States. More than 12 million acres have been purchased or approved for purchase for national forests since March 1933, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as much land as was purchased for national forests in the preceding 22 years. Approximately 125 million trees produced largely in Forest Service nurseries were planted during 1939 on 131,000 acres of national forest land.

In the Prairie States Forestry Shelterbelt Project of the Forest Service 125 million trees have been used in 11,000 miles of plantings and provide protection for about 3 million acres of land, in the Great Plains, where protection is especially needed.

About 314,000 trees were planted on farm lands in 1938 in the farm forestry program of the Soil Conservation Service, and 55 million trees were distributed for farm planting under Forest Service-State cooperation through the Clarke-McNary law.

Under the AAA program in 1938 about 55,445 acres of farm land were planted to forest trees.

PART THREE: GREATER SECURITY AND BETTER LIVING ON THE LAND

Aside from the program designed to provide greater equality of income for agriculture as a whole, and Nation-wide conservation practices, special attention has been given to more needy farm families requiring additional aid to become self-supporting. Special programs have been directed to low-income farmers suffering from such additional handicaps as drought, poor farming practices, worn-out or inadequate land, unsound tenure conditions, or overwhelming debt.

From 1935 to 1940 in Delaware, the Farm Security Administration aided 132 farm families with rural rehabilitation loans aggregating \$92,500 to enable them to get a new start and again become self-supporting.

By following complete farm and home management plans in 1939, 101 rehabilitation borrowers in Delaware had an average net income of \$739.67 per family as compared with \$577.00 in the year before they came to FSA for help, an increase of 28 percent, and increased their average net worth over and above all debts from \$101,428 to \$119,972, a gain of 18 percent in the same period. Thus these families had added \$18,729 to the wealth of their communities and increased their own annual income by a total of \$16,429. The typical rehabilitation family in Delaware has borrowed \$853.44 and already has repaid \$141.28. Delaware rehabilitation borrowers in 1939 produced \$42,190 worth of goods for home consumption, compared with \$25,985 worth before entering the Farm Security Administration program. In 1939 these families canned an average of 235 quarts of fruits and vegetables per family, for home consumption; produced an average of 522 gallons of milk per family; and an average of 31.67 tons of forage per family.

At the close of 1939, 27 Delaware families had received grants for emergency relief aggregating \$9,878.

Under the Bankhead-Jones Act loans for farm purchases were made to 10 tenant families in Delaware as of December 31, 1939, aggregating \$41,383.

In the United States as a whole, from 1935 to 1940, the Farm Security Administration aided approximately 800,000 farm families with rehabilitation loans. By following complete farm and home management plans, 360,000 of these borrowers covered by a survey in 1939 had increased their net worth over and above all debts by 26 percent, and their production of food for home consumption by 64 percent. The average borrower reported increasing his net worth by more than \$230.42 since coming into the program.

The Farm Security Administration has made rehabilitation loans totalling more than \$370,000,000 since 1935. Although these loans are usually made for a period of 5 years, and much of the money is not yet due, these farmers who could not get adequate credit from any other source already have repaid more than \$130,000,000 into the U. S. Treasury. Ultimately it is expected that at least 80 percent of these loans will be collected. Under the Bankhead-Jones Act, loans for farm purchases were made to 6,678 tenant families by Dec. 31, 1939.

By June 30, 1939, the Rural Electrification Administration had made allotments in Delaware aggregating \$895,037 for the construction of 847 miles of line to serve 2,571 farm families.

By June 30, 1939, 3,430, or 30.9 percent of the farms in the State, had central station service, compared with 1,791, or 17.3 percent having central station service before the REA began operations in 1935. This is a net increase of 1,639 farms or 91.5 percent. Surveys showed that 60 percent of Delaware farms served by REA lines have washing machines; 75 percent have electric irons; 38 percent have electric vacuum cleaners; general utility electric motors, electric

chick brooders and poultry lighting have gained favor since the beginning of the program.

There was one REA-financed rural electric system in the State by September 1, 1939.

In the United States as a whole, to the close of 1939, the Rural Electrification Administration of the Department of Agriculture has made total allotments of \$273,000,000 for the construction of 260,000 miles of line to serve 600,000 farm families. Already 400,000 farms have been connected to REA-sponsored lines, the greater majority of which are cooperatively managed. The number of electrified farms in the United States has more than doubled from 1935 to the present time. Approximately 25 percent of American farms were electrified by January 1, 1940, compared with 10.9 percent on January 1, 1935.

PART FOUR: STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY THROUGH THE FARM PROGRAMS

Democracy has been both the end and the means of National Farm Programs from 1933 to the present. Through local committees, farmers have the responsibility for local administration.

Nearly 6 million of the Nation's 6,800,000 farmers are participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program today. Participation in Delaware and in the United States since the AAA began in 1933 was as follows:

<u>Delaware</u>		<u>United States</u>	
Number of contracts accepted by AAA			
1933	687	1933	1,625,912
1934	912	1934	3,105,110
1935	1,494	1935	3,399,779
1936 <u>1/</u>	740	1936 <u>1/</u>	291,652

1/ Winter wheat and rye contracts made before January 6, 1936.

<u>Delaware</u>		<u>United States</u>	
Number of payees under the Agricultural Con- servation Program			
1936	3,982	1936	3,880,447
1937	5,931	1937	3,743,904
1938	9,678	1938	5,248,796
1939	10,500	1939	5,764,200

The results of referendum votes among Delaware farmers show the demand for full application of the AAA programs. Important referenda in which Delaware farmers participated were as follows:

<u>Nature of Referendum</u>	Date	Votes of Participating Farmers		Percent For
		For	Against	
		:	:	
Corn-hogs	Oct. 1934	: 206	: 1	: 99.5
Wheat	May, 1935	: 442	: 50	: 90
Corn-hogs	Oct. 1935	: 757	: 166	: 82

In Delaware in 1940 there were 15 members and alternates of county AAA committees and 125 members and alternates of community AAA committees which administer the Agricultural Conservation Program locally. There were also 3 county committees of the Farm Security Administration in the State and 2 county tenant purchase committees. Cooperating with the Farm Credit Administration were 3 local National Farm Loan Associations and 1 Production Credit Association.

Soil Conservation Districts are organized and developed under State laws by farmers, who have an opportunity to express their preferences both as to planning and operations within the District. By means of these Districts farmers can coordinate their efforts to control erosion thoroughly along watershed lines with technical assistance often being furnished by local, State, and Federal agencies.

Land Use Planning by Farmers

Land Use Planning Committees study all agricultural problems, and how Federal, State, and local agricultural services can best be applied. Representative farm people and agricultural officials are members of both county and community planning committees. In this way farmers have a voice in planning what all public agricultural agencies will do in their communities.

In Delaware two county Land Use Planning Committees, with 29 farmers members, have been formed and others were expected to be organized in 1940.

In the United States as a whole, approximately 135,000 farmers served on AAA committees; there were 2,907 Debt Adjustment Committees; 1,289 Tenant Purchase Committees; and approximately 1,500 committees for rehabilitation loans; about 3,700 active National Farm Loan Associations, and 528 Production Credit Associations; approximately 370 Soil Conservation Districts were either organized or in the process of organization.

There were approximately 19,000 farmers by the end of 1939 participating as members of county Land Use Planning Committees, and 65,000 as members of community Land Use Planning Committees.

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